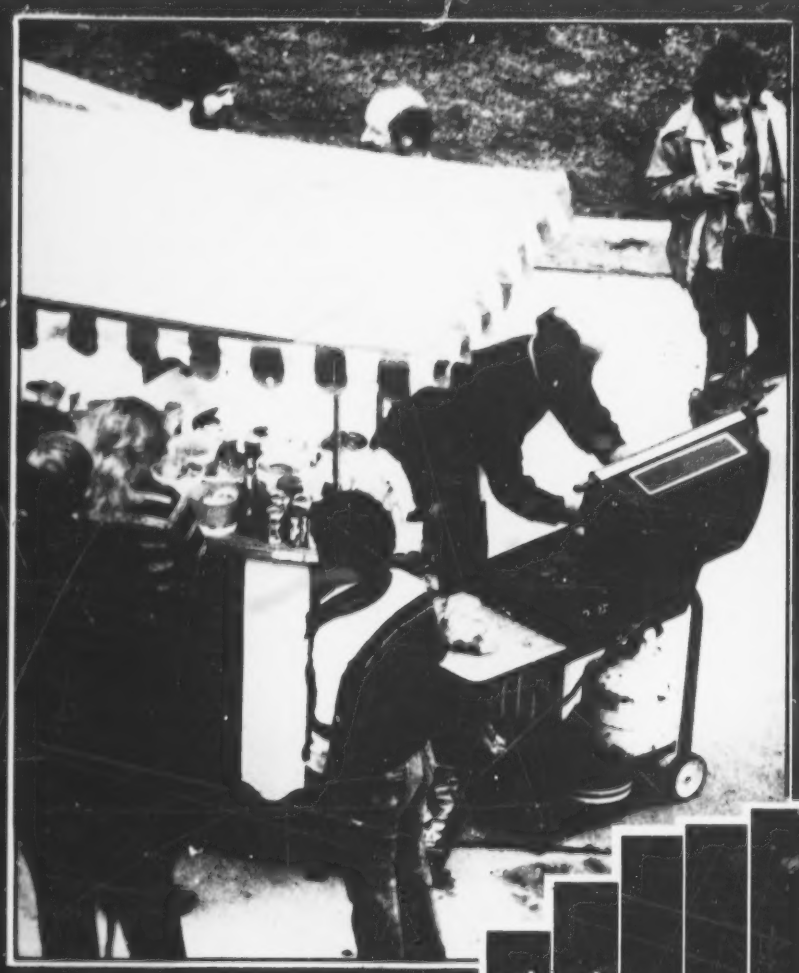
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

JULY 1984

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Alaska Department of Labor Bill Sheffield, Governor, State of Alaska



1 Alaska Occupational Employment Outlook

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Bill Sheffield, *Governor, State of Alaska*

Jim Robison, *Commissioner, Department of Labor*

Judy Knight, *Director, Administrative Services*
Chuck Caldwell, *Chief, Research and Analysis*
Ed Eboch, *Editor*

Funded by:

July 1984
Volume 4
Issue 7

CONTENTS

Alaska Occupational Employment Outlook 1

Alaska 14
Anchorage/Matsu 18
Fairbanks/Interior 23
Gulf Coast 27
Southeast 29
Hours and Earnings 31
Labor Force By Region and Census Division . . . . . Center Insert

Alaska Economic Trends is published monthly by the Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section, P.O. Box 1149, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS, P.O. BOX 1149, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

The following notes pertain to Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Tables:

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date March 1983.

P Denotes preliminary estimates.

R Denotes revised estimates.

ALASKA OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

By John Van Houten

Alaska's employment growth is anticipated to continue through 1988 but at a subdued pace compared to the past several years. With any growth in employment, growth in jobs does not occur equally in every occupation. Sales and service occupations will show the largest percentage growth from 1983 to 1988. Craft, operator, and labor occupations will gain the least. Sales clerks will have the greatest number of job openings resulting from industry growth plus replacement needs from death and retirement separations. Desk clerks and waiters/waitresses will have the highest employment growth rate.

These are among the findings from Research & Analysis Section's latest employment estimates and projections produced from its industry-occupations (I-O) matrix. The I-O matrix is based on Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) industry surveys which cover all of Alaska's nonagricultural and nonmilitary wage and salary employment. Information is provided for more than 200 specific occupations and includes 1983 base-year occupational employment estimates, 1984 estimates, 1988 projected employment, and average annual job openings resulting from growth and replacement needs from 1983-1988.

The occupations are divided into seven major categories, i.e., managers and officers (1983 estimated employment, 20,100), professionals (29,900), technicians (9,800), service workers (32,400), maintenance and production workers (60,800), clerical workers (43,200), and salespersons (9,900). Occupations in the sales category are projected to show a 15.4% gain from 1983-88, followed by service workers at 12.0%, clerical workers 7.8%, managers and officers 7.7%, professionals 7.3%, technicians 4.5%, and maintenance and production workers 4.4%.

Complete results of the estimates and projections for Alaska statewide, and for Anchorage, and Fairbanks will soon be available in the publication *Alaska Occupational Employment*. Alaska statewide information is presented in Table 1 for a list of 39 specific occupations which have the highest number of job openings projected for growth and employment needs.* These occupations account for 52% of the grand total job openings for all occupations in the matrix. The 1983 employment estimate for each occupation is given along with the percent and numerical change projected between 1983-1988. The employment prospects statement gives a brief supply/demand and job outlook evaluation for each position listed.

The employment prospects statements have been taken from the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS). Detailed employment outlook infor-

mation for the occupations listed here and more than 200 others can be found in the AKCIS Occupational Information file.

* The number of job openings considered here do not include turnover openings resulting when employees change jobs or occupations or temporarily quit working. Turnover openings for some occupations may exceed growth and replacement openings, however, there is no good measurement available for turnover. Growth and replacement openings are more indicative of net needs and provide good comparative values among occupations.

The Job Outlook in Brief

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Officers and Managers			
Managers—Restaurant or Bar	618	18.3	113
Managers—Store	1,842	17.2	317
Professionals			
Accountants & Auditors	1,843	6.0	111
Nurses—Professional	2,022	4.6	93

Employment Prospects

Shortage of qualified applicants, particularly for full-service restaurants. Many employers promote from within, some exclusively. The number of establishments is growing in Alaska, so prospects are very good for experienced applicants, particularly those willing to enter at a lower level.

Surplus of applicants. The number of sales and service personnel desiring these promotions make the situations very competitive. The outlook depends on the development of new goods and services, and management's interest in improved marketing techniques and sales organization.

Shortage of fully trained auditors and certified public accountants (CPA). The outlook depends mainly on the health of Alaska's economy, greater use of accounting services by all size of firms and the public sector, complexity of tax laws, and government regulation of financial reporting. A steady demand is anticipated for accountants and auditors in Alaska.

Slight shortage of applicants. Outlook depends on extension of prepayment programs, and increased interest in preventive medicine and rehabilitation of the handicapped. In Alaska, the supply is unevenly distributed by geographic area and specialty, causing shortages in some less populated areas of the state.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Teachers—College	1,675	11.9	200
Teachers—Elementary	3,862	11.9	461
Teachers—Secondary	3,224	11.9	385
Service Workers			
Bartenders	1,481	17.7	262
Child Care Workers	814	10.7	87
Cooks—Institutional	971	9.7	94
Cooks—Restaurant	1,330	17.4	232
Cooks—Short Order Speciality Fast Food	907	18.1	164
Food Preparation & Service Workers—Fast Food	2,495	18.1	452

Employment Prospects

Extreme surplus of applicants. Outlook depends on new training and research programs, and on financial support of post-secondary institutions. Currently, there is a surplus of applicants in most disciplines at both state and national levels, resulting in extremely keen competition for jobs.

Supply varies with location and speciality. Most openings are in rural school districts where turnover is high. In urban areas, there is a surplus in the less-specialized areas of teaching.

Supply varies with location and speciality. Most openings are in rural school districts where turnover is high. In urban areas, there is a surplus in the less specialized areas of teaching.

Slight surplus of applicants. Openings are created by those who leave the occupation. The turnover rate is moderately high. Demand for bartenders increases in the summer creating some seasonal opportunities

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. However, turnover is high, resulting in a large number of openings. The outlook depends on the demand for child care and on public and private willingness to fund child care. Moderate growth is expected.

Balance of applicants. Outlook depends on turnover due to replacement of those leaving the occupation. Though the food service industry is growing as a whole, little or no growth is expected in institutional setting.

Balance to slight shortage of applicants. Highly skilled cooks and chefs can usually find work. While the food service industry is growing, most new establishments are fast food, which do not create openings for cooks and chefs.

Balance of applicants. The outlook depends on the replacement of those who leave the occupation. Turnover is relatively high. Opportunities usually exist for experienced persons, while there is generally a surplus of applicants for entry-level positions.

Surplus of applicants. While turnover is high, there are still many more applicants than openings, probably due to the fact that most positions are entry level and require little or no training and experience.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Guards & Doorkeepers	1,048	9.8	103
Janitors/Porters/Cleaners	4,552	10.3	468
Kitchen Helpers	1,798	15.8	284
Maids	1,445	15.9	229
Nurses Aides/Orderlies	1,548	7.8	120
Waiters/Waitresses	3,545	18.3	648
Craft Persons/Operators/ Laborers			
Automotive Mechanic	1,612	9.1	146

Employment Prospects
Slight shortage of qualified applicants for some positions. Near balance overall. The outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation and the use of security services by public and private enterprises and agencies. Competition is keen for higher paying jobs. Turnover is realtively high. Part-time work is available.
Balance of applicants. Competition is keen for the better paying positions. Job turnover is high, especially in the lower pay ranges but there are usually applicants for these openings as well. Some part-time work is available for students.
Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on replacing those who leave the occupation. High job turnover will create most openings. Demand is higher in more populous areas.
Slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on the replacement of those who leave the occupation, the level of commercial and tourist activity, and the number of motels, hotels, and health facilities. High turnover creates a steady replacement demand. Demand increases during the summer season, causing shortages in some areas.
Balance of applicants. Outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation and on the number of hospitals and convalescent and nursing homes. Because of expansion of medical services, this occupation is expected to grow at a faster than average rate. Because turnover is high, opportunities are generally available
Balance of applicants. Job turnover is high. Competition for the higher paying, more prestigious positions may be keen. Prospects are fairly good for beginners who convey a pleasant manner, neat appearance, and the willingness to work the less-popular shifts. Demand increases during the summer months, providing some seasonal opportunities
Slight shortage of fully qualified workers. The outlook depends on general economic conditions in Alaska, the cost and supply of gasoline, and the willingness of employers to provide on-the-job training. Some employers report a surplus of applicants with some training but no practical experience. The demand is expected to increase for auto mechanics.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Baggers	701	18.1	127
Cannery Workers	5,225	2.7	142
Carpenters	2,444	-3.6	-89
Delivery & Route Workers	1,002	14.2	142
Maintenance Repairers—General Utility	2,741	8.3	227
Stock Clerks—Sales Floor	1,330	17.3	230
Clerical Workers			
Accounting Clerks	2,255	6.5	147
Bookkeepers—Hand	2,106	9.2	194

ALASKA
HOURS AND EARNINGS
FOR
SELECTED INDUSTRIES 1/ 2/

	Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Weekly Earnings		
	p/ 3/84	r/ 2/84	3/83	p/ 3/84	r/ 2/84	3/83	p/ 3/84	r/ 2/84	3/83
Mining	$23.43	$22.55	$21.91	51.1	49.1	51.5	$1197.27	$1107.21	$1128.37
Contract Construction	24.72	23.90	23.36	41.2	41.1	42.2	1018.46	982.29	985.79
Manufacturing	12.79	14.21	12.90	41.6	34.5	34.7	532.06	490.25	447.63
Food & Kindred Products	8.26	8.72	8.49	42.3	26.6	30.3	349.40	231.95	257.25
Lumber & Paper Products	17.37	17.18	16.34	41.2	40.6	39.1	715.64	697.51	638.89
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	15.29	15.25	15.47	36.6	38.8	37.0	559.61	591.70	572.39
Trade	10.47	10.19	9.72	34.2	34.0	34.3	358.07	346.46	333.40
Wholesale	12.03	12.00	11.15	37.3	37.9	37.4	448.72	454.80	417.01
Retail	9.81	9.43	9.10	33.0	32.6	33.2	323.73	307.42	302.12
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	—	—	—	—	—	—	353.65	362.25	352.02

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

2/ Excludes eating and drinking establishments

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Employment Prospects

Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends primarily on the expansion of larger grocery stores that use grocery baggers services, and on replacement of those who leave the occupation. Competition is keen, especially for part-time jobs.

Slight shortage of applicants. The outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation, the size of the catch, and technological changes in canning or freezing methods. Moderate employment growth is anticipated. Employment is usually high in the summer.

Surplus of qualified applicants. The outlook depends on the level of building construction, seasonality, replacement of those who leave the occupation, and general economic conditions around the state. Prospects are best for those with all-around training. The change in employment for carpenters shows negative numbers, resulting from a projected decline in construction. However, because of job separations the occupation ranks high in job openings.

Surplus of qualified applicants. Entry level skills require little training and makes for an abundance of applicants and competition for job openings.

Moderate surplus of applicants. Openings will arise from worker retirement, moderate job turnover, and creation of new jobs due to expansion of the Alaskan economy.

Surplus of applicants particularly for entry level positions. However, due to high turnover at this level, opportunities will arise. The outlook depends on the expansion of trade, the general economic stability, and the rate of automation of these tasks.

Moderate surplus of applicants. Most positions are entry level and openings are created as workers advance to other positions or leave the occupation. Turnover is high, though competition is often keen for entry level positions.

Balance of skilled applicants. The outlook depends mainly on general business in Alaska and the replacement of those who leave the occupation. There is a shortage of applicants with bookkeeping and secretarial skills. Many employers require both. Remote areas offer many part-time opportunities.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Cashiers	2,742	16.2	444
Clerical Supervisors	1,256	6.3	79
Desk Clerk	463	18.6	86
General Clerks—Office	5,556	6.6	367
Receptionists	1,371	8.3	114
Secretaries	5,341	7.2	385
Stock Clerks—Stockroom Warehouse	1,882	11.4	215
Teacher Aides	1,631	11.8	193

Employment Prospects
Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on expansion of business activities, replacement of those who leave the occupation, and technological advances in computerized pricing and in change-making equipment. Turnover is relatively high, but competition is still keen for these primarily entry level positions.
Balance to slight surplus of applicants. These positions are often filled by promotion from within the firm, and few openings are available to entry level applicants.
Slight surplus of inexperienced applicants. Demand is good in Alaska, particularly for people with training and/or experience. Demand is expected to increase as hotels and motels are built or expanded, though use of computerized reservations systems by some national chains will limit this somewhat.
Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on the economy of Alaska and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. The demand for office clerks in Alaska is good. These are typically entry level positions which experience high turnover as workers move on to other positions.
Surplus of applicants. Turnover and promotions will create some openings. Most employers prefer applicants with clerical skills in addition to phone answering and greeting abilities.
Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on a healthy state economy and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. Prospects are better for secretaries with word processing or specialized skills such as legal or medical work.
Surplus of applicants, particularly for entry level positions. However, due to high turnover at this level, opportunities will arise. The outlook depends on the expansion of trade, the general economic stability, and the rate of automation of these tasks.
Large surplus of applicants. Competition is high enough in some areas that certified teachers are taking these positions. Outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation, size of student population, the role of aides within the school settings, and upon financial backing from individual school districts.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Tellers	1,023	9.5	97
Typists	3,298	3.6	120
Salespersons			
Sales Clerks	5,160	16.1	833

Employment Prospects
Surplus of applicants for entry-level positions. The outlook depends on expansion of business and banking activities, replacement of those leaving the occupation, and on technological advances in banking equipment.
Balance of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on the economy of Alaska and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. Clerk Typist is typically an entry level position in most offices and openings are created as workers move on to other positions. Turnover is high. Moderate growth is anticipated.
Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on general business conditions, expansion of retail sales facilities, the degree to which computerized checkout systems are utilized, and replacement of those who leave the occupation. Turnover is high but the number of applicants will continue to exceed the number of jobs.

ALASKA

By Ed Eboch

Alaska's seasonal industries, construction and manufacturing, were major contributors to May's strong employment growth. All industries experienced increases in employment as the support industries responded to the beginning of the tourist season and to growth in the basic industries. While employment was up strongly in May and above last year there was evidence of over-the-year weakness in some sectors of the state's economy. While up for the month, employment in hard rock mining was down considerably from last year as weak mineral prices continue to depress the industry. May preliminary data indicates hotel employment as approximately equal to last years, while restaurant employment was down from last May levels. Early 1983 was an exceptionally good period for hotels, motels and restaurants as the traditionally soft winter and spring months saw record business travel to Alaska. The high occupancy rates of last year are not being repeated in the spring of 1984. The employment data is reflecting this return to more normal levels of discretionary travel.

Tourism

Good news for the tourism industry. People are traveling more this year than in the past. Early indications are that visitors are arriving earlier and in greater numbers to Alaska. According to Alaska's Division of Tourism, highway traffic in May was above last year at Tok. The Southeast has a net addition of three tour ships plying the Inside Passage. So far the additional competition has not impacted existing operators as tour ship bookings are up from last year. The tour ships are operating at full or near full capacity during this "economy price" spring period. Lodges and fishing resorts appear to be doing well and increased interest in the latest competitor to the market, bed and breakfast accommodations, all suggest that this could be a good year for the tourist industry. Bed and breakfast is becoming a popular, less costly, way to visit Alaska; and, with hotel space scarce during the tourist season, is a welcome addition to the Alaska tourist picture.

Alaska's tourist season will face some stiff competition later this summer from the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, the World's Fair in New Orleans, and a month long celebration of Donald Duck's birthday at Disney World in Florida. The Summer Olympics will be the big competitor as it will be trying to reach much of the same income and age group as would normally be attracted to Alaska. With this being the only opportunity to see the Olympics in the United States for many years, the Summer Olympic games may reduce U.S. visitors to Alaska. However it may give foreigners the opportunity to see Alaska while on route to or from the Olympic games, especially for those visitors using the polar route through Alaska. A long awaited improvement in the exchange rate would also be a

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ALASKA

	P	R	CHANGES FROM:		
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	219300	211200	214100	8100	5200
Mining	8300	8200	8200	100	100
Construction	19400	17000	20200	2400	-800
Manufacturing	11600	9900	11700	1700	-100
Food & Kindred Prod.	5900	4500	5800	1400	100
Lumber & Paper Prod.	2700	2500	3000	200	-300
All Other Mfg.	3000	2900	2900	100	100
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	18900	18100	18800	800	100
Trucking & Wrsehg.	2400	2300	2100	100	300
Water Transportation	1300	1200	1300	100	0
Air Transportation	5900	5600	6000	300	-100
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	9300	9000	9400	300	-100
Trade	43700	42600	41200	1100	2500
Wholesale	8500	8400	7700	100	800
Retail	35200	34200	33500	1000	1700
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4900	4800	4500	100	400
Food Stores	6200	6200	5400	0	800
Eating & Drinking Places	11800	11400	12200	400	-400
Other Retail Trade	12300	11800	11400	500	900
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	11200	10900	10500	300	700
Services & Misc.	39800	38900	39200	900	600
Government	66400	65600	64300	800	2100
Federal	18200	17500	17800	700	400
State	19500	19700	18500	-200	1000
Local	28700	28400	28000	300	700

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark Date: March 1983.

P Denotes preliminary estimates.

R Denotes revised estimates.

help in attracting foreign visitors to Alaska.

Data Revisions

Statewide and regional employment estimates are published monthly in *Alaska Economic Trends*. These numbers are sample based and therefore subject to error. However, by using a sample based estimate, employment data are available on a timely basis. The estimates are reliable in identifying directions and magnitude of employment changes. However, the most accurate source of employment data is an actual count based on unemployment insurance tax reports made by employers to the Alaska Department of Labor. Unfortunately these data, summarized in the "ES-202", are not available for six to nine months after the employment occurs. The Department of Labor, Research & Analysis now has available 1983 ES-202 data. The data will be published shortly in the Departments *Statistical Quarterly* and gives employment and wage data by industry and area in greater detail than that published in *Alaska Economic Trends*. For more information contact: Department of Labor, Research & Analysis, P.O. Box 1149, Juneau, Alaska 99802.

LABOR FORCE BY REGION AND CENSUS DIVISION

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	P 5-84	R 4-84	5-83	P 5-84	R 4-84	5-83	P 5-84	R 4-84	5-83	P 5-84	R 4-84	5-83
Alaska Statewide	242944	236701	232076	25628	27962	25079	10.5	11.8	10.8	217316	208739	206997
Anchorage-MatSu Region	125818	123008	117968	10781	11577	10222	8.6	9.4	8.7	115037	111431	107746
Anchorage	113416	110594	106352	9040	9490	8591	8.0	8.6	8.1	104376	101104	97761
Matanuska-Susitna	12402	12414	11616	1741	2087	1631	14.0	16.8	14.0	10661	10327	9985
Gulf Coast Region	26534	25392	25654	3515	3926	3909	13.2	15.5	15.2	23019	21466	21745
Cordova	1371	1293	1331	139	141	167	10.1	11.1	12.5	1232	1149	1164
Kenai	13856	13246	13282	2127	2309	2202	15.4	17.4	16.6	11729	10937	11080
Kodiak	5785	5525	5675	529	623	710	9.1	11.3	12.5	5256	4902	4965
Seward	1942	1859	1933	300	328	382	15.4	17.6	19.8	1642	1531	1551
Valdez	3580	3469	3433	420	522	448	11.7	15.0	13.0	3160	2947	2985
Interior Region	33120	32399	31417	4875	5273	4873	14.7	16.3	15.5	28245	27126	26544
Fairbanks	27065	26443	25673	4043	4333	4087	14.9	16.4	15.7	23022	22110	21636
Southeast Fairbanks	2611	2561	2441	302	343	271	11.6	13.4	11.1	2309	2218	2170
Upper Yukon	814	802	784	125	141	137	15.4	17.6	17.5	689	661	647
Yukon-Koyukuk	2630	2593	2519	405	456	428	15.4	17.6	17.0	2225	2137	2091
Northern Region	11161	11575	12112	1018	1345	1057	9.1	11.6	8.5	10143	10230	11385
Barrow-North Slope	2912	2977	3259	176	218	188	6.0	7.3	5.8	2736	2759	3071
Kobuk	3530	3672	3947	382	497	411	10.8	13.5	10.5	3148	3175	3533
Nome	4719	4926	5236	460	630	455	9.7	12.8	8.7	4259	4296	4781
Southeast Region	33663	32725	32822	3951	4553	3858	11.7	13.9	11.9	29712	28172	28464
Angoon	463	437	435	70	64	58	15.1	14.6	13.3	393	373	377
Haines	1127	1108	1153	125	157	193	11.1	14.2	16.7	1002	951	960
Juneau	11796	11489	11461	1009	1262	1128	8.6	11.0	9.8	10787	10227	10333
Ketchikan	7179	7002	6743	929	1076	755	12.9	15.4	11.2	6250	5926	5988
Outer Ketchikan	892	825	877	156	127	172	17.5	15.4	19.6	736	698	705
Prince of Wales	1613	1622	1571	238	319	257	14.8	19.7	16.3	1375	1303	1317
Sitka	4892	4518	4529	535	387	355	10.9	8.6	7.8	4357	4131	4174
Skagway	1649	1660	1761	196	282	369	11.9	17.0	21.0	1453	1378	1392
Wrangell-Petersburg	4052	4064	3789	693	879	571	17.1	21.6	15.1	3359	3185	3218
Southwest Region	12648	11602	12273	1488	1288	1160	11.8	11.1	9.5	11160	10314	11113
Aleutian Islands	3209	2978	3200	174	173	178	5.4	5.8	5.6	3035	3805	3022
Bethel	4129	3764	3991	579	483	459	14.0	12.8	11.5	3550	3281	3535
Bristol Bay Borough	446	425	412	46	55	43	10.3	12.9	9.7	400	370	399
Bristol Bay	1694	1537	1608	195	152	146	11.5	9.9	7.2	1499	1385	1492
Kuskowkim	1184	1083	1094	216	188	130	18.2	17.4	11.9	968	895	964
Wade Hampton	1986	1815	1935	278	237	234	14.0	13.1	12.1	1708	1578	1701

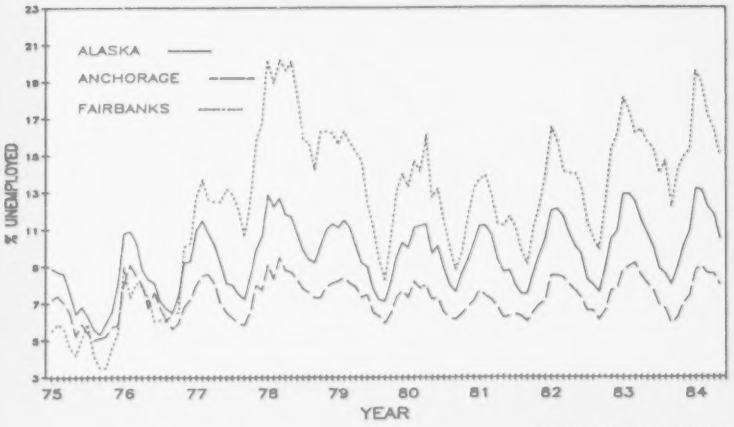
P = Preliminary 1983 Benchmark

R = Revised

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor; because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature; meaning that the unemployment rates, in any given month, are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment, currently in place, exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

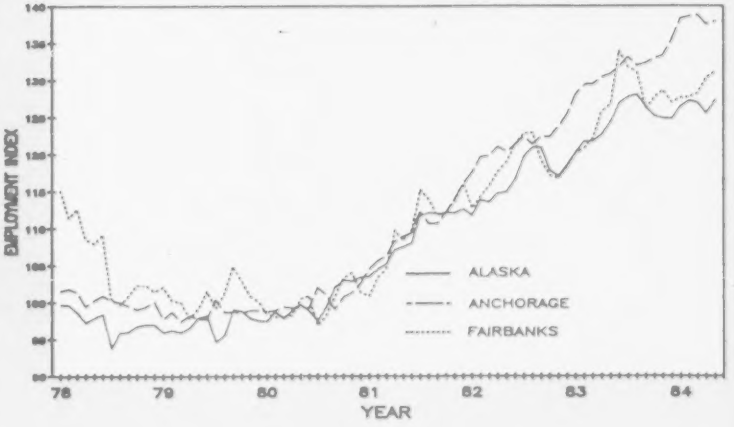
BEST AVAILABLE COPY

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
1975 to Present



source: Ak. Dept. of Labor

Composite Nonag. Employment Indexes
Seasonally Adjusted
1978 to Present



ANCHORAGE/MATSU

By Greg Huff

Profile of the Anchorage Nonresident Job Seeker
Part II

The following article is the second part of a series outlining the characteristics of Anchorage nonresident job seekers. Last month, Part I covered characteristics of Anchorage job seekers whose last job was located outside of Alaska. Part II focuses on Anchorage job seekers who last worked elsewhere in Alaska.

Throughout the year, many Alaskans from around the state journey to Anchorage in search of a job. For some rural Alaskan residents, it may be their only chance to participate in Alaska's "cash economy". Many Alaskans use Anchorage as a home base and when laid off return to Anchorage to begin the job search again. Others come to Anchorage for a variety of other reasons such as school or for a greater diversity of job opportunities. Since Anchorage is the largest and most significant transportation and commerce hub in Alaska, this influx of job seekers is likely to continue. This profile of Anchorage nonresident job seekers gives information about where the individual comes from, their occupation, and various other characteristics.

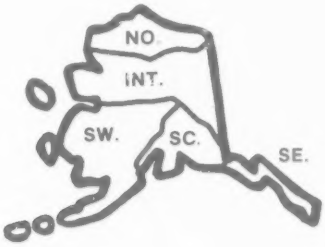
The profile is based on Anchorage Job Service applications. A sample of these applications were reviewed from February through mid-May 1984. Answers to eight questions were retrieved from the applications: 1) location of last job, 2) primary occupation, 3) reason left previous job, 4) race, 5) sex, 6) age, 7) family size, and 8) education.

Location

Alaskans come to Anchorage from all areas of the state in search of jobs. More job seekers come from the South Central region than any other region. This region includes the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound and the MatSu area but excludes Anchorage (Table I). The bulk of job seekers from the Interior and Northern regions were from Fairbanks and the North Slope. Juneau led among Southeast cities and Bethel among Southwest cities.

Table I
Origin by Region and Rank

	Percent Distribution
Southcentral (excludes Anchorage)	37
Southeast	19
Southwest	16
Interior	14
Northern	14



Occupational Characteristics

The primary job skills or occupation are diverse, but those with construction skills represented the largest proportion of Anchorage job seekers (Table II). Detailed characteristics of those job seekers with construction skills reveal that a majority had general construction and laborer skills. The remaining responses indicated specific construction skills such as plumbing, welding, electrical, carpentry and heavy equipment operator.

Occupational characteristics by sex followed traditional lines with women representing the majority of those seeking clerical and service related jobs while men make up the majority of those seeking construction, transportation and mechanics jobs.

Table II
Job Skills by Occupation

	Percent Distribution
Construction	30
Professional, Technical & Mgmt.	19
Clerical Sales	16
Services	11
Fishery & Forestry	11
Trucking & Warehouse	8
Mechanics	5

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE-MATSU

			CHANGES FROM:		
	P	R			
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	114650	111450	108600	3200	6050
Mining	3500	3600	3650	-100	-150
Construction	9900	8650	9750	1250	150
Manufacturing	2650	2350	2500	300	150
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	9550	9300	9400	250	150
Trade	28350	27850	26200	500	2150
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	7900	7700	7400	200	500
Services & Misc.	24400	24100	23400	300	1000
Government	28400	27900	26300	500	2100

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE

			CHANGES FROM:		
	P	R			
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	109000	106560	103400	2560	5600
Mining	3500	3550	3650	-50	-150
Construction	9100	8300	9050	800	50
Manufacturing	2600	2300	2450	300	150
Food & Kindred Prod.	550	350	550	200	0
Other Mfg.	2050	1950	1900	100	150
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	9000	8800	8850	200	150
Trucking & Whseing.	1150	1250	1100	-100	50
Water Transportation	350	300	400	50	-50
Air Transportation	3700	3550	3700	150	0
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	3800	3700	3650	100	150
Trade	27100	26700	24950	400	2150
Wholesale	6250	6150	5850	100	400
Retail	20850	20550	19100	300	1750
Gen. Merchandise	1700	1700	1600	0	100
Food Stores	2750	2750	2450	0	300
Eating & Drinking Places	8050	7950	7500	100	550
Other Retail Trade	8350	8150	7550	200	800
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	7600	7350	7200	250	400
Services & Misc.	23600	23350	22650	250	950
Government	26500	26150	24600	350	1900
Federal	10200	9900	9850	300	350
State	6700	6800	6250	-100	450
Local	9600	9450	8500	150	1100

Other Characteristics

Responses from job seekers on the reason for leaving their last job ranged from simply stating "Moved to Anchorage" to "Laid Off" (Table III). Mixed among the responses "Moved to Anchorage" are a few responses such as relocate, moved to the big city or returned to Anchorage. Among the "other" response category were responses ranging from left town to couldn't handle the isolation.

Like Anchorage's population, job seekers tended to be young. Survey results showed the age group 26-30 years old representing over a third of all job seekers. Over half of the job seekers were 30 years old or younger. Reflective of the young age of the job seekers, 54% were single. Of those with families, not all have the family members with them. Many job seekers leave the family at home and wait until a job is secured before sending for them. Others are after a grubstake and return home after a job is over.

Table III
Other Characteristics

Reason for Leaving Last Job

	Percent Distribution
Laid Off	27
Moved to Anchorage	24
"Other" Reasons	19
Lack of work	16
Seasonal	9
School	5

Race

	Percent Distribution
White	70
Am. Indian and Native	30

Age

	Percent Distribution
16-20	3
21-25	14
26-30	35
31-35	8
36-40	11
41-45	8
46-50	14
56-60	5
No response	2

Table III
(Continued)

Family Size

	Percent Distribution
Single	54
Two	8
Three	11
Four	8
Five or More	5
No Response	14

Education

	Percent Distribution
Not High School Graduate	14
High School Graduate	41
Some College or Vocational School	30
4 or More Years of College	14
No Response	1

FAIRBANKS/INTERIOR

By Neal Fried

Fairbanks' Income Picture

According to figures just released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Fairbanks' per capita income for 1982 was $18,381. What is the meaning of this number? How does it compare to the rest of the state and nation, and historically, has it kept up with the cost-of-living in Fairbanks?

This figure is calculated by dividing Fairbanks' total personal income by the Fairbanks North Star Borough's total population. Personal income is made up of all sources of income received by Fairbanks residents, including wages, rents, interest, transfer payments, retirement payments, and other income. These figures must be used with caution because they: 1) rely on population estimates which may be inaccurate, 2) a temporary economic event may briefly inflate or depress these figures, and 3) the population dynamics of an area may produce figures which are not necessarily representative of the economic health of an area's population. For example, if a community has a disproportionately large university student population, this could depress its income. As long as these figures are used cautiously, they can reveal a great deal about a community's economic health.

Over the past decade (1972-1982), per capita income in Fairbanks has more than tripled. The reason people may not feel that much richer is because inflation consumed a good portion of this increase. In inflation adjusted dollars per capita income increased by 48%. (All other references will be to inflation adjusted figures.) Prior to 1974, Fairbanks' income grew slowly. With the onset of oil pipeline construction in 1974, income began to skyrocket, as real per capita income grew by 19% that year. The following year broke all previous and present records as real per capita income grew by 53%. It is unlikely that this growth in income for one year will ever be matched again. Income not only grew because of high pipeline wages and rapid growth in employment but also because many of the people earning this income were single and without dependents. Per capita income may have also been overstated because the population estimates made for these years tended to be conservative. In spite of this, the income numbers were phenomenal.

Income continued to climb through 1976 and then began to fall in both real and adjusted dollars through 1978. In 1979, income began to inch upward again, but in real terms was still losing the battle against inflation. In 1980, growth was strong enough to make gains on inflation. This trend continued through 1982. Real per capita income increased by 15 percentage points between 1980-1982. The strength of these figures comes as a result of

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
FAIRBANKS

	P	R	CHANGES FROM:		
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	27700	26850	26900	850	800
Mining	300	300	300	0	0
Construction	2650	2150	2700	500	-50
Manufacturing	550	550	600	0	-50
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	2900	2800	2950	100	-50
Trucking & Whseing.	500	450	450	50	50
Air Transportation	700	650	700	50	0
Other Trans. Comm. & Utilities	1700	1700	1800	0	-100
Trade	5750	5700	5400	50	350
Wholesale	850	900	850	-50	0
Retail	4900	4800	4550	100	350
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	400	400	400	0	0
Food Stores	800	800	750	0	50
Other Retail Trade	3700	3600	3400	100	300
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	1000	1000	950	0	50
Services & Misc.	5150	5000	5000	150	150
Government	9400	9350	9000	50	400
Federal	2700	2550	2600	150	100
State	3850	4000	3700	-150	150
Local	2850	2800	2700	50	150

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
INTERIOR

	P	R	CHANGES FROM:		
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	31800	30600	30500	1200	1300
Mining	450	400	450	50	0
Construction	2700	2200	2800	500	-100
Manufacturing	600	550	600	50	0
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	3600	3550	3700	50	-100
Trade	6200	6050	5750	150	450
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	1100	1050	1000	50	100
Services & Misc.	5500	5350	5300	150	200
Government	11650	11450	10900	200	750

a booming economy where total wages increased by 38% during these same years.

During the past decade, Fairbanks' per capita income has consistently remained 25% above the nation's. Since the mid-1970's, the percentage has climbed past 25% and reached 73% in 1982. Over the decade, Fairbanks' per capita income has increased more rapidly than the United States as a whole. The nation's real per capita income increased a paltry 6.5% compared to Fairbanks' 48.1%. Whether the difference between Fairbanks' and the nation's per capita incomes is large enough to make up the cost-of-living difference cannot be readily answered for lack of data. Given the widening gap between Fairbanks' and the nation's income and Fairbanks recent overall economic performance, it does appear that despite the cost of living increases, Fairbanks residents are enjoying a higher real per capita income.

A comparison between the State and Fairbanks is not as dramatic. Both the State's and Fairbanks' per capita income have followed a similar pattern over the years. Fairbanks has been 5-10% higher than the state for the past decade. In 1982, Fairbanks ranked 4th in the state out of 29 areas. Given Fairbanks' economic performance in 1983 and thus far in 1984, per capita income figures for these years are likely to continue to be impressive.

Per Capita Income
1970-1982

	Fairbanks	Alaska	U.S.
1970	$4,928.	$4,726.	$3,945.
1971	5,127.	4,989.	4,167.
1972	5,526.	5,285.	4,515.
1973	5,952.	6,104.	5,010.
1974	7,864.	7,180.	5,448.
1975	13,723.	9,554.	5,842.
1976	14,170.	10,725	6,367.
1977	11,993.	10,967.	6,984.
1978	11,883.	10,957.	7,775.
1979	12,269.	11,344.	8,657.
1980	13,991.	12,918.	9,483.
1981	16,618.	14,819.	10,495.
1982	18,381.	16,598.	11,100.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Per Capita Income
Adjusted to 1970 Dollars
1970-1982

	Fairbanks	Alaska	U.S.
1970	$4928.	$4726.	$3945.
1971	4963.	4830.	3994.
1972	5211.	4984.	4190.
1973	5385.	5523.	4377.
1974	6418.	5861.	4289.
1975	9848.	6857.	4214.
1976	9437.	7143.	4343.
1977	7490.	6850.	4475.
1978	6927.	6387.	4627.
1979	6478.	5990.	4631.
1980	6700.	6187.	4468.
1981	7368.	6571.	4480.
1982	7715.	6967.	4464.

GULF COAST

By Neal Fried

1984 Employment

Gulf Coast employment grew again in May, marking the fifth consecutive month of employment growth in the region. This is the fourth straight year of robust employment growth in the Gulf Coast region. Though the rate of increase has come down from 8% in 1982 to 6% in 1983, it is still one of the fastest growing regions of the state. No single industry is responsible, but construction, trade, and services are the growth leaders. With the exception of manufacturing, all industries added employment or remained stable. Within the region, the Kenai Peninsula Borough is the fastest growing area.

Construction employment remains a major contributor to employment growth in this region. Residential, commercial and public construction are all strong. Retail trade employment, like construction, is growing at a double digit rate. Rapid population increases and the increased capacity to consume locally are pushing retail trade employment to new heights. The landscape on the Kenai Peninsula is literally being transformed overnight with new stores and eating and drinking places appearing on every corner

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
GULF COAST

	P	R	CHANGES FROM:		
	5/84	4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	19550	18250	18900	1300	650
Mining	750	750	700	0	50
Construction	2000	1500	1950	500	50
Manufacturing	2550	2200	2500	350	50
Food & Kindred Prod.	1850	1500	1800	350	50
All Other Mfg.	700	700	700	0	0
Trans. & Comm. Utilities	2300	2200	2250	100	50
Trade	3200	3100	3050	100	150
Wholesale	450	450	400	0	50
Retail	2750	2650	2650	100	100
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	500	500	500	0	0
Services & Misc.	3150	2900	3000	250	150
Government	5100	5100	4950	0	150
Federal	500	500	500	0	0
State	1500	1500	1400	0	100
Local	3100	3100	3050	0	50

and thoroughfare. A good tourism year is expected to provide additional stimulus to this industry. The service industry has been expanding for the same reasons retail trade has grown.

The only industry which has recorded employment numbers below year ago levels is manufacturing, or more specifically, fish processing. Poor shellfish harvests are still affecting manufacturing employment. However, if this year's salmon harvest is good, fish processing employment could actually climb above year ago levels.

Unemployment

The unemployment picture has changed little in 1984. The unemployment rate has fallen slightly (less than a percentage point), but it has remained far above the state and national rates. While employment continues to move ahead, the number of job seekers continues to grow at a similar pace, keeping the unemployment rate high.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA

By John Boucher

Southeast Alaska nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 1,550 jobs in the month of May to 30,000. The increase in jobs translated into employment growth of 5.4% since the month of April. In May of 1983, nonagricultural employment in Southeast Alaska stood at 29,250. The increase of 750 jobs over last May represents 2.6% employment growth over the year. All sectors of the Southeast economy contributed to the employment growth, but construction, manufacturing and trade led the growth, accounting for 1,100 of the 1,550 jobs.

Construction in Southeast is still contributing heavily to over the month growth due to the large amount of public construction taking place this year. Juneau is one of the largest contributors in this area, with a myriad of public projects ranging from the long awaited downtown parking garage to additions at both of the junior high schools, the city wide water project as well as a major airport renovation project. Construction in the private sector appears to have slowed somewhat with the completion of a large retail complex, and three other large office buildings are either finished or near to completion. However, at least two major retail projects have yet to be completed.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
BY PLACE OF WORK
SOUTHEAST ALASKA

			CHANGES FROM:		
	P 5/84	R 4/84	5/83	4/84	5/83
Nonag. Wage & Salary	30000	28450	29250	1550	750
Construction	2200	1750	2150	450	50
Manufacturing	3450	3150	3750	300	-300
Food & Kindred Prod.	1050	950	1100	100	-50
Lumber & Paper Prod.	2150	1950	2400	200	-250
All Other Mfg.	250	250	250	0	0
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	2100	1950	2000	150	100
Trade	4800	4450	4500	350	300
Wholesale	450	450	450	0	0
Retail	4350	4000	4050	350	300
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	1050	1000	950	50	100
Mining, Services & Misc.	4300	4200	4300	100	0
Government	12100	11950	11600	150	500
Federal	2250	2200	2200	50	50
State	5600	5600	5450	0	150
Local	4250	4150	3950	100	300

The impact residential construction is making on employment is the most difficult of the construction sectors to assess because the capital city seems to be entering a new market phase. For the first time in recent memory, Juneauites are experiencing both greater selection and more competitive pricing in housing. These conditions are normal in an unconstrained economy so they would not necessarily signal a decline in residential construction employment. However, the line between an oversupply and an adequate supply is a somewhat tenuous one. Continued growth at 1983's pace would most likely bring about an oversupply situation. If preliminary indications are correct, the housing market in Juneau does seem to have cooled somewhat at least from last year's pace as indicated by a 22% fall in the number of 1984 building permits over that issued during the first quarter of 1983. First quarter data is not the best data to compare the strength of a construction year because the vast majority of building occurs in the second and third quarters.

Skagway Unemployment

For the second time in the last eight months, the methodology by which the Skagway-Yakutat census areas unemployment rate is calculated has been changed. As explained in the November issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, federal methodology for determining unemployment at the census division level does not normally include railroad unemployment claimants. It was determined that this led to a distortion in the Skagway-Yakutat local area unemployment rate because of the enormous impact that the White-Pass Yukon railroad had on the Skagway economy. The Alaska Department of Labor received permission to include railway claimants in the local area rate in October. Reexamination of this policy by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has resulted in the Bureau editing the railroad claimant data before it is entered to ensure that it conforms to federal standards. As a result of editing by the BLS, fewer railroad claimants were defined as unemployed and subsequently the unemployment rate in the Skagway-Yakutat census area dropped.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

By Kathleen Thomas

The high seasonal nature of food and kindred products, mostly comprised of fish and seafood processing, is evident in hours and earning activity of the manufacturing industry over the past two months. Though no major changes occurred in average hourly earnings for March, average weekly hours increased 59% over February and 40% over March 1983. Then in April, average weekly hours decreased 34% from March to settle at only 7% above last year. The sizable increase in the March hours was mainly caused by catching the tanner crab processing figures in the March sample and the completion of this processing before the April survey. The decrease in April served to lower average weekly hours in all manufacturing by 15%. On the whole, April displayed little change in hours and earnings from last month except in manufacturing.

ALASKA
HOURS AND EARNINGS
FOR
SELECTED INDUSTRIES [1] [2]

	Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Weekly Earnings		
	p 1 84	r 3 84	1 83	p 1 84	r 3 84	1 83	p 1 84	r 3 84	1 83
Mining	$23.45	$23.43	$22.97	49.7	51.1	47.9	$1165.47	$1197.27	$1100.26
Contract Construction	24.71	24.87	23.76	41.3	41.2	42.6	1020.52	1024.64	1012.18
Manufacturing	13.78	12.79	13.77	35.3	41.6	33.0	186.43	532.06	454.41
Food & Kindred Products	8.41	8.26	8.52	28.1	42.3	26.3	237.16	349.40	224.08
Lumber & Paper Products	16.61	17.37	16.72	42.7	41.2	40.1	709.25	715.64	670.47
Trans. Comm. & Utilities	15.55	15.36	15.27	36.6	36.1	37.1	569.13	559.10	566.52
Trade	10.63	10.41	9.81	34.8	34.2	34.9	369.92	357.05	343.42
Wholesale	12.30	12.00	11.11	38.7	37.3	37.6	476.01	447.60	417.74
Retail	9.89	9.79	9.30	33.3	33.0	33.9	329.34	323.07	315.27
Fin.-Insurance & R. Estate	—	—	—	—	—	—	374.60	353.65	353.06

1 Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

2 Excludes eating and drinking establishments

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.